

House Bill 2 Amendment
Section E (Education)

EXHIBIT 2
DATE 1/26/07
HB 2 Approp-Edu

Proposed:

DP # 2064 Governor's Postsecondary Scholarship Program

The legislature approves a general fund appropriation of \$1.5 million general fund in FY 2008 and \$2.5 million in FY 2009, a total of \$4.0 million general fund in the 2009 biennium, to support the Governor's Postsecondary Scholarship Program, authorized in 20-26-601, MCA.

General Fund: \$4 million

Background: This is essentially a union of executive DP's 2002 and 2061, with an overall general fund reduction of \$41,332.

Language: If the legislature does not amend the governor's postsecondary scholarship program to expand the number or size of the scholarship awards authorized at 20-26-601, MCA, this item is reduced by \$221,834 general fund in FY 2008 and by \$486,834 general fund in FY 2009, and line item OCHE – Student Assistance is increased by \$139,768 general fund in FY 2008 and \$221,900 general fund in FY 2009 to support the Montana Higher Education Grant (MHEG) program.

Staff Recommendation: That the legislature consider this as a new proposal, rather than present law, as it significantly expands a statutory program (more than doubles the biennial appropriation from base year). This has no impact on the appropriation level or the appropriation's subsequent role as part of the subsequent base year expenditures.